to set up a Market Stabilisation Fund (MSF) as a mechanism to avoid recurrence of sudden crashes that shook the stock market, such as the one on 17th May, 2004; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) A suggestion for such a fund has been made in a meeting.

(b) There is no decision on setting up of a Market Stabilisation Fund.

Relief to Andhra Farmers

1349. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Govt. has sought a financial assistance of Rs.660 crores and a package of measures to provide relief to the distressed farmers;

(b) whether Andhra Pradesh Govt. has also conveyed that severe drought and a spate of suicides by farmers have been reported from several districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether a number of memoranda were submitted to the Prime Minister during his visit in the month of July; and

(d) if so, what is the total package the Central Govt. have agreed and by when this is being released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) No report on occurrence of drought due to deficient rainfall during the current South-West Monsoon has been received from the State so far.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An *ex-gratia* payment of Rs.50000/- per family has been made to 154 affected families due to suicides of farmers from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. After the visit of Prime Minister to the State in July, 2004, 1.82 lakh MTs of foodgrains were released to the State, free of cost, under Special component of SGRY for drought of 2003-04. Also,

second instalment of Centre's share of Calamity Relief Fund for 2004-05 amounting to Rs. 45.14 crores (due in November, 2004) was released to the State in advance for expenditure on calamity relief works.

Utilisation of Funds by States

1350. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sanctioning Committee of the recently set up Agriculture Credit Fund has sanctioned Rs. 176 crores to various States for projects relating to minor irrigation, soil and water conservation, flood protection and agro-forestry;

(b) if so, the amount provided to each State under this scheme; and

(c) to what extent these funds have been utilised uptill now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) In the first meeting of the Sanctioning Committee of the Agriculture Infrastructure and Credit Fund, Rs. 176 crore has been sanctioned to 9 States as per details given below:

S. No.	Name of State	Sector	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. Crore)
1.	Bihar	Medium Irrigation components	12.73
2.	Himachal Pradesh	Irrigation & Flood Protection	22.48
3.	Karnataka	Minor Irrigation, Soil & Water Conservation	46.87
4.	Kerala	-do-	3.90
5.	Nagaland	Agro-Forestry	4.51
6.	Orissa	Minor Irrigation and Flood Protection	62.27
7.	Tripura	Cold Storage	3.17
8.	Uttaranchal	Minor Irrigation	3.47
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Flood Protection	16.60
	TOTAL		176.00